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ABSTRACT

The need for religious instruction for handicapped children is addressed, and lists of curriculum guides and materials for religious education are offered. The sparseness of literature on special religious education is pointed out, and the Episcopal Awareness Center on Handicaps (which helps make the church accessible to the disabled) is mentioned. Titles and publisher information is given for materials designed for mentally handicapped and hearing impaired students. (SW)

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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

by Charlotte Hawkins-Shepard, Ph.D.

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Paper Presented at the
Council for Exceptional Children
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National Convention, Washington D.C.
April 27, 1984

EC162859

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RELIGIOUS ED AND SPECIAL ED

An "open letter to pastors and to parents" was published recently in the magazine The Exceptional Parent (Ellis, Ellis, & Warren, 1984). In the "Dear Pastors" part of this letter, the author stated "we are speaking for many people who are parenting children and adults whose physical, mental, communication or behavioral problems have interfered with participation in 'normal' religious activities" (p. 39). Highlighted in the parents' writing is the point that a disability is only part of someone, and it must not keep one apart from his or her church or synagogue. A simple yet powerful statement is made to clergy:

We have the same need for spiritual renewal as other members of your congregation. (p. 41)

A highlight of the "Dear Parents" portion of the letter is the following statement from the clergy author:

You have every right and responsibility to claim an equal place among the congregation. (p. 42)

The writer went on to underscore the unique position of the church and synagogue in informing, educating, and motivating people to become involved in facilitating the transition of severely disabled persons "from social isolation to full participation in the least restrictive environment." The "Dear Parents" letter concludes with the affirmation that

"religion must address the reality of disability, and the continuing needs of all who are involved."

He calls for a shared responsibility, in helping the congregation understand and adjust to the differences of disability, saying that "together we can demonstrate God's power." (p. 44)

This "letter" is not an isolated instance of focus on religious needs of persons with disabilities. Attention to these issues has been growing, and is illustrated by various movements within the religious community, as recently typified by "the 1983 International Religious Year of Persons with Disabilities" (see Wilke, 1982), and by the numbers of church groups across the country that have adopted resolutions or issued pastoral or policy statements related to ministry with persons who are handicapped, and to special religious education.

In ecumenical perspective, a number of national and international religious groups have developed publications and programs with the goal of helping places of worship become accessible for persons with disabilities. (The concept of accessible is one that includes awareness, communication, attitude, and architecture.) One such program is that of the Episcopal Awareness Center on Handicaps (E.A.C.H.). The name E.A.C.H. is basic to the project's philosophy that "each" person, no matter what his or her special needs are must be included in all that the church does.

Certainly a key area in the life of the church is its religious education program. In a journal article about clergy involvement with mentally retarded persons and their families, Heifetz and Franklin (1982) affirm that:

The need for religious special religious education programs furnishes a promising basis for collaboration (p. 62)

Unfortunately, articles in religious literature, and special education journals that address specifics regarding special religious education are

sparse. Although the special education field has become highly sophisticated in its program models, teaching approaches, and reinforcement methods, this expertise is not, for the most part, being shared adequately with special religious education leaders, or clergy who are in the position of decision making regarding the provision of a religious education program for the persons in their church who are handicapped. This presenter calls for a "shared responsibility" between special education professionals and religious leaders, as well as between "pastors and parents."

In 1982, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, as part of a research project in this area surveyed 24 religious bodies having a million or more members. In their seven item questionnaire entitled "Religion and Handicapped Persons," they asked "What is being done at any level to meet special religious education needs of retarded persons, those with learning disabilities, or others, young and old, who have special needs (i.e., blind, deaf, wheelchair)?" (See President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, 1982.) The committee reported only a 25% response to the questionnaire.

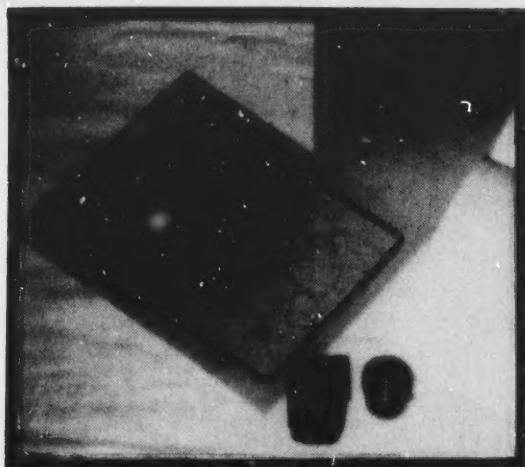
Both in reviewing literature, and in talking with clergy and other religious education leaders, one finds that the usual model used is that of a special class, and if there are not at least four persons who can be grouped appropriately, the child or adult just does not get special help in religious education. In addition to the lack of awareness of various program options, there appears to be a widespread reliance on teacher made

materials, and on adapting existing regular religious instruction material to the special learner. An awareness of more than two or three special education religious curricula is not often found. Yet within various denominations, there are a number of curriculum and material sets that could be used, if not in total, at least in part. A number of these are here at this session for participants' review.

Several bibliographies and resource lists of organizations and materials in this area have been published, but the need for a comprehensive updated interdenominational bibliography is apparent. Two such bibliographies developed by an E.A.C.H. consultant (one in the area of mental retardation, and one relating to hearing impairment) are found appended to this paper. Notable in the literature are the reviews and newsletters of the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons (NAMRP), and the publications of the National Council of Churches, Education for Christian Life and Mission.

References

- Ellis, H., Ellis, E., and Warren, G. T. (1984). An open letter to pastors and to parents. The Exceptional Parent, 14(1), 39-44.
- Heifetz, L. J., and Franklin, D. C. (1982). Nature and sources of the clergy's involvement with mentally retarded persons and their families. American Journal of Mental Deficiency, 87(1), 56-63.
- President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (1982). Religion and handicapped persons: A preliminary report. Washington, D.C.: author.
- Wilke, H. (1982). The caring congregation (Press Release). White Plains, N.Y.: The Healing Community.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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& materials



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A Catalog of Bible Visuals for the Deaf and Materials About Deafness

Deaf Missions

R.R. 2

Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Christian Education and Hearing Impaired Adolescents: Some Suggestions & Resources

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475 Riverside Drive

Room 706

New York, NY 10115

In The Beginning

activity packet

Sister Madeline Studer

P.O. Box 66

Green Bay, WI 54305

Lord's Prayer Poster

The Sign Language Store

9420 Reseda Blvd

P.O. Box 4440

Northridge, CA 91328

Religion Lessons for the Deaf

Sister Gerard Lyons

Written in 1960's, revised in 1972 for the American/Spanish Deaf

Student Book/Teacher Manual

Deaf Center

309 North Alamo

San Antonio, TX 78205

Scripture Stories Told in Sign Language

Joyce Motion Picture Company

8613 Yolanda Avenue

P.O. Box 458

Northridge, CA 91328

Carter, Bruce
3000 W. 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Prayer Posters:

The Our Father

Hail Mary

Prayer of Sorrow

Glory Be

Good Shepherd Psalm 22

Gloistein, Sister Joan
923 S. Grattan Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015

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1st and 2nd Year Lessons (31 Lessons)

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4th Year Lessons (18 Lessons-Reconciliation)

Teacher Training Material (ample for 36 hours)

Gospel Media for the Deaf
Gospel Ministries for the Deaf
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Salem, Oregon 97303

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filmstrip(captioned)

"Communication - Key to Your Marriage"
H. Norman Wright
lesson series

"God's Relief For Burdens"
Mrs. Paul Friederichsen
multi-media package

"God's Word Made Plain"
Mrs. Paul Friederichsen
transparencies

The Jensen Bible Study Charts
Volumes 1, 2 and 3
Irving L. Jensen
transparencies

"The Plan of Salvation"
George Delamarter
transparencies

Responsive Readings on opaque transparencies available from
the Old Testament: Genesis Chapters 1,2,3,6, 8, 12, 13,
19: 1-26
25: 26-34

Psalms Chapter 33

New Testament: Luke (entire book)
Philippians (entire book)
Romans 8: 28-39

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Box 100
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Book 5 (older children)

Series A
Series B
Series C
Series D
Series E

National Catholic Office for the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Barat College Lesson Plans (Based on the Life of Christ)

20 Primary Level Lessons
Sister Maura Costello

20 Intermediate Level Lessons
Sister Kathy Costello

National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
Room 706
New York, NY 10115

Christian Education for the Hearing Impaired Child
M.C. Maves

Developing and Designing Religious Materials for Deaf People

Christian Education and Hearing Impaired Adults
L. Correu, ed.

Resources for the Christian Education of Persons with
Special Learning Needs

Supplement to Resources

Religious Education Office
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

My Mass Book (Grades 1 to 3)

My Sunday Mass Book (Gospels for the Year)

Teaching Prayers to Deaf Children

Religious Education Office
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Lessons for the Deaf Adapted From Life, Love, and Joy
Sister Helene McDonald

Grade I Life & Jesus

Grade II First Communion

Grade III Creation, Senses

Grade IV Moral Formation

Grade V Sacraments

Grade VI Scripture, Parts I & II

Confirmation Workbook for the Deaf
Student/Teacher

Workbook for Lessons for the Deaf

Age Group Objectives for Special Education

A Case for Jesus (adapted from Silver Burdett)
Student/Teacher

Ideas for Teaching the Mass to Young Deaf Children

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Northridge, CA 91328

Noah and the Rainbow

Sampson, The Strongest Man

Manual of Religious Signs

Lift Up Your Hands 1 & 2

Jesus Stops a Storm

Sing Praise

Ministry to the Deaf

Ministering to the Silent Minority

Bible for the Deaf

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Be Opened, An Introduction to Ministry with the Deaf

William R. Yount
Broadman Press
127 9th Avenue, N.
Nashville, TN 37234

Beginning a Work for the Deaf

J.F. Price et al.
Deaf Missions
R.R. 2
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

"The Deaf Congregation: Leadership Training and Its Impact on the Community"

Jerry Seale
First Baptist Church
Knoxville, TN

"Deaf Segregation-Integration in the Church"

Herbert W. Rohe
Journal of Rehabilitation of the Deaf
Volume II, Number 2
October 1977

Deafness: Facts and Philosophies for the Beginning Worker

K.L. Penna
Temple Deaf College
Kansas City, MO
1975

Finding Your Way Through the Bible

Cokesbury Regional Service Centers
Fifth and Grace Streets
Richmond, VA 23261

"The God of the Deaf Adolescent"

Reverend Anthony Russo, C. Ss. R.
Paulist Press
545 Island Road
Ramsey, NJ 07446

I Can't, I'll Try: The Road of Christian Growth Through Education in Deaf Ministry

William R. Yount
Columbia Baptist Church
103 N. Columbia Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

Ideafile

Box 3314
Richmond, VA 23235

Lift Up Your Hands

D. Gadling, D. Pokorny, L. Riekehof
National Grange
1976

Made By Hand

Reverend A. Russo
Catholic Information Service
Knights of Columbus
Box 1971
New Haven, CT 06521

Ministry to the Deaf

C.M. Pentz
571 Westminister Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

My Eyes Are My Ears: A Collection of Papers Delivered at the First International
Ecumenical Seminar on the Pastoral Care of the Deaf

D.H. Pokorny, ed.
Arno Press/MSS Information Corporation
3 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

"The Nature and Work of Pastoral Workers Serving Deaf People: A Report of a Limited Survey"
N.A. Grandel and F.R. Zieziula
Journal of Rehabilitation of the Deaf
14(1981)

Religious Education of the Deaf

Sister Mary Dugan
Sisters of Charity
Mt. St. Joseph, OH 45051

Religious Instruction for Handicapped Children

J. Reilly and J. Hourihan
Mount Carmel Guild
Newark, NJ
1963

"Responsibility of the Church to the Deaf"

Religious Education of the Deaf, p.4

J. van Eijndhoven, ed.
Rotterdam University Press
Netherlands

Singing in Signs: Hymns & Choruses for the Deaf

Cathy Rice

T. Nelson Publisher

The Distributors

702 S. Michigan

South Bend, IN 46618

1982

The Silent World

B.E. Branson

Trojan Press, Inc.

310 E. 18th Street

N. Kansas City, MO 64116

"A Study of the Religious Education of Catholic Deaf Students"

E.C. Burkhart

Masters Thesis

Catholic University

1954

Teaching Religion to the Deaf

B. Budgen

Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart

Baltimore, MD

Tips for Teachers Working with Persons with Hearing Impairments and Speech

Impaired Learners

Carol Schmidt

2900 Queen Lane

Philadelphia, PA 19129

"What Now?"

Lloyd Corder, Workshop for Baptists on Deafness and Rehabilitation

U.S. Department HEW

Vocational Rehabilitation Administration

Washington, D.C.

1965

The Word in Signs and Wonders: A Collection of Papers Delivered at the Second

International Training Seminar on Christian Ministry Among the Deaf

D.H. Pokorny and R.C. Hohenstein, ed.

Isaiah 29 Press

Washington, D.C.

1977

Working with Deaf People in the Sunday School

John Cooper, ed.

Convention Press

127 Ninth Avenue, N.

Nashville, TN 37234

American Bible Society
1435 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Jesus Stops a Storm (Signed English)

Birth of Jesus (Signed English)

Gospel Publishing House
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

Sign Language Made Simple
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Ministering to the Silent Minority
Edgar D. Lawrence

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Daily Christian Living 33-0102

Studies of St. John 33-0103

The Holy Spirit and the Deaf 33-0104

Prayer and Praise 33-0105

Our Wonderful Lord 33-0106

Acts in Action 33-0107

"Happy Songs for Preschoolers"

Home Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention
Atlanta, GA

Manual for Work with the Deaf
George B. Joslin

Ideas for Associational Deaf Ministries
George B. Joslin

Southern Baptists and Total Communication with the Deaf
George B. Joslin

A Handbook for Religious Interpreters for the Deaf¹
Carter E. Bearden

National Catholic Office for the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20910

"Evangelizing the Deaf"
A. Hollis

Signs for Catholic Liturgy and Education
A. Hollis

LISTENING Magazine

How to Present Religious and Moral Truths to Acoustically
Handicapped Children
Sister Mary Carl

¹ Note. This publication is somewhat outdated.

Mentally Retarded

• • • CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS • • •

Christian Education Resources for
Persons who are Mentally Retarded
Task Force on Mental Retardation
United Church of Canada
85 St. Clair Avenue, East
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M8
Canada

A Curriculum Guide and Suggested
Activities and Experiences for Teachers
of Children with Retarded Mental
Development in Jewish Religious Schools
Hershel M. Stiskin
Jewish Education Committee Press
426 West 58th Street
New York, NY 10019

Friendship Series Curriculum
Education Department, Christian Reformed Church
Friendship Workshop
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI

Journey with Jesus
Sister M. Sheila Haskett, O.S.F.
St. Coletta School
Jefferson, WI

SPRED
Special Religious Education
Archdiocese of Chicago
2953 South Lowde Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616

Concordia Publishing House (CPH)
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Frederick A. Rodthe

National Council of Churches
Education for Christian Life and Mission
Room 706
475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115

Developing Acceptance and Leadership
Jo Morgan
Reprint: THE CHURCH SCHOOL magazine
November 1980

Expanding Worlds: Resources for
Ministry with Adults who are Retarded
1976

Resources on Church Membership and
the Mentally Retarded
1978

Supplement to Expanding Worlds
1982

Religious Education Office
19711 Hawthorne Street
Detroit, MI 48203

Religious Education Materials
Sister M. Helene McDonald

Age Group Objectives for Special
Education

Bibliography and References for
Exceptional Children
(updated)

A Case for Jesus

Confirmation Lessons for
Exceptional Children

Confirmation Workbook for
the Deaf

Discussion Aids for Scripture
Themes of the Liturgy (for the retarded adult)

Following Jesus, Year One,
Scripture Lessons for the
Severely Retarded Person

Following Jesus, Year Two,
Scripture Lessons for the
Severely Retarded Person

Following Jesus, Year Three,
Scripture Lessons for the
Severely Retarded Person

The Gospel of Mark for TMR
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Southern Baptist Convention
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37234

Sunday School kit for
Teaching the Mentally Retarded

Winston Press
430 Oak Grove
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Adapting the Joy Series for People
with Mental Retardation
Brigid M. O'Donnell

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*** INFORMATION, BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS ***

Christian Education for Retarded Persons

LaDonna Bogardus
Abingdon Press
Nashville, TN
Order Code #0529C

The Church and the Mentally Retarded Person

Department of Christian Education
(Canadian Council of Churches)
Canadian Assn. for the Mentally Retarded
Kinsmen W.I.M.R. Bldg., York University
4700 Keele Street, Downsview
Ontario, Canada

How to Teach the Mentally Retarded

(There's a Way to Reach Them)
Gloria H. Hawley
Victor Books
S.P. Publications
Wheaton, IL 60167

Interdenominational Resource: Special Religious
Education, Special Ministry for Persons who are
Mentally Retarded

Dorothy Desmarteau
Special Pastoral Services
Association for Retarded Citizens
Portland, OR

Leading Persons who are Mentally Retarded
in Prayer and Worship

by Northern Virginia Training Center

Ministry with Persons who are Retarded

Fortress Press
2900 Queen Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19129
Order Code #2-49

Resource Guide for Pastors and Church
Workers Serving Mentally Retarded People

Gerald Oosterveen and Bruce L. Cook
David C. Cook Foundation
850 N. Grove
Elgin, IL 60120

Resources for Religious Instruction of
Retarded People

Rev. Lawrence J. Cronin
Special Education Consultant
Office of Religious Education - CCD
Archdiocese of Boston
1 Lake Street
Brighton, MA 02135

Standards for Community Agencies
Serving Persons with Mental Retardation
and Other Developmental Disabilities

"Specialized Religious Nurturance"
Accreditation Council for Facilities for the Mentally Retarded
875 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Thank You Davey, Thank You God
Marilyn E. Worswick w/ Robert Selle
Augsburg Publishing House
Minneapolis, MN 55415

We Visited Leon Today
Carol Weiser
Lutheran Church in America

Why Me?
Rabbi Hyman Agress
Creation House
Carol Stream, IL 60187

Commision on Services to the Mentally Retarded
Concordia Tract Mission

They Have a Right...to Confirmation
and Holy Communion
Paul E. Drause

We Have a Retarded Child
Marshall R. Nelson & Arthur O. Kaul

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St. Louis, MO 63118

Candles in the Night

Helping the Retarded to Know God

How You Too Can Teach

I'm Different
D.A. Grant

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New York, NY 10115

Resources on Church Membership
and Persons who are Retarded:
Confirmation, Baptism, and Communion

A Selected Bibliography on
Religion and Religious Education

*** AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS ***

Friendship in Action

United Church of Canada
Division of Mission in Canada
85 St. Clair Avenue, East
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M8
Canada

Write to: David Hallman, Special
Assistant for Ministries with
Persons of Exceptional Need

Special to God, Special to Us

National Apostolate with Mentally
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American Bible Society

Attn: Department of National Distribution -
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1855 Broadway
New York, NY 10023

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God Will Take Care of You

How to be Happy

Jesus Visits Two Friends

Jesus Welcomed Children

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(Southern Baptist Convention)
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Living and Learning

Your Church and the Mentally
Retarded

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St. Louis, MO 63118

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Mentally Retarded

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(rental)

A Sunday School for the Mentally
Retarded
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